

1997

3, 2, 2 (350K)

F1-186

I. Executive Summary

a. Project Title and Applicant Name

Project Title: Spivey Pond Acquisition, Mr. Dave Spivey, seller

Applicant Name: Mr. Dave Harlow, Assistant Field Supervisor for Endangered Species and Contaminants, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 3310 Cottage Way, Suite 102, Sacramento, California 95824

b. Project Description and Primary Biological/Ecological Objectives

On July 1, 1997, a breeding population of California red-legged frogs was located in a small pond on North Fork Weber Creek, in El Dorado county near Placerville, California. California red-legged frogs were thought to be nearly extirpated from the Sierra Nevada at the time of it's listing in 1996 and this discovery is the first significant population located within this portion of the range in more than twenty five years. This site is located on private lands currently under consideration for timber harvest. The purchase of this site offers an excellent opportunity to recover the California red-legged frog in the central Sierra Nevada. Weber Creek has long been thought to provide a refugia for California red-legged frog in the Sierra Nevada. The location of this population in area presents a significant opportunity to recover the species not only within the Weber Creek watershed, but also within adjacent drainages, thus moving the species closer to recovery. The western Sierra Nevada below 4,500 feet elevation is listed as a recovery unit in the final rule listing the species as threatened May 23, 1996. This site is situated at 3,200 feet elevation on the North Fork Weber Creek, a tributary to the South Fork American River. This proposal to purchase the 56 acre parcel and transfer ownership to the adjacent Eldorado National Forest would provide protection and management certainty for this important population.

c. Approach/Tasks/Schedule

Approach. The Service staff will actively be involved in all aspects of the land acquisition. At all stages of land acquisition, Service staff will suggest/recommend improvements and incorporation of actions beneficial to fish and wildlife.

d. Justification For Project and Funding by CALFED

Water diversions via Weber Dam (5 miles downstream) and Central Valley Project activities have significantly contributed to the reduction of California red-legged frog populations throughout it's range. The construction of large reservoirs have facilitated the introduction of non-native fishes and other predators which has had a significant impact on the California red-legged frog within the western Sierra Nevada and the central valley. The California red-legged frog is a frog of marshes, ponds, and low gradient stream reaches that support back water areas with emergent vegetation, as well as larger vernal pool

habitats occurring from valley level to approximately 5,000 feet elevation. Prior to the agricultural and urban development of the central valley the California red-legged frog was abundant and well distributed within the wetland habitats of this region. The subsequent draining, conversion of wetland habitats associated with the construction of reservoirs and water diversions within the Central Valley hydrologic basin has significantly reduced the range of the California red-legged frog.

Continued urbanization, development of infrastructure, and out growth of the Central Valley projects indirect effects continue to significant negative effects to the survival and recovery of the California red-legged frog. The growth of rural El Dorado county poses an immediate threat to recovering the California red-legged frog within this portion of it's range in the absence of aggressive recovery efforts. The purchase of this site will begin the process of recovery and the umbrella strategy to preserve the species and its habitat in the western Sierra Nevada.

e. Budget Costs and Third Party Impacts

The 56 acre parcel is on the market for \$350,000. The owner has planned to harvest the merchantable off the land prior to sale, thus, the asking price does not reflect the value of the timber. The landowner has agreed to hold off on logging the land until the issue of land acquisition is resolved. As with any land acquisition the county is interested in maintaining the tax base. O&M costs will be an additional \$500,000.

f. Applicant Qualifications

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is one of the Federal agencies with a co-lead responsibility for preparation of a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement For the CALFED Bay-Delta Program (Program). The Service is the only agency with regulatory authority under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and responsibility under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) and the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA).

g. Monitoring and Data Evaluation

We propose that the acquired land be turned over the the U.S. Forest Service for future management.

h. Local Support/Coordination with other Programs/Campatibility with CALFED objectives

Spivey Pond Acquisition

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
3310 El Camino Ave. Suite 130
Sacramento, California 95821

U.S. Forest Service
Eldorado National Forest
100 Forni Road
Placerville, California 95667

II. Title Page (1 page)

a. Title of Project

Spivey Pond Acquisition

b. Name of applicant/principle investigator(s), address, phone/fax/E-mail (if different from above)

Wayne White, Acting Area Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, 3310 El Camino, Suite 120, Sacramento, California 95824/ (916)979-2129/ FAX: (916)9079-2744/
E-mail: Wayne_White@mail.fws.gov

c. Type of Organization and Tax Status

Federal Agency

d. Tax Identification Number and /or Contractor license, as applicable

N/A

e. Technical and Financial Contact person(s), address, phone/fax/E-mail (if different from above)

Technical Contact: Joel Medlin, Deputy Field Supervisor, address, phone, and fax as above, E-mail: Joel_Medlin@mail.fws.gov or Jean Elder, CALFED Bay-Delta Coordinator, address, phone, and fax as above, E-mail: Evelyn_Elder@mail.fws.gov

Financial Contact: David Patte, Chief, Budget and Finance, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region I, Eastside Federal Complex, 911 N. E. 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232-4181

f. Participants/Collaborators in Implementation

Fish and Wildlife Service Staff as appropriate.

g. RFP Project Group Types(s) (Construction; Acquisition; Other Services)

Group 3: Services

III. Project Description (no more than 6 pages plus maps and/or figures)

a. Project Description and Approach

This site is located on private lands currently under consideration for timber harvest. The purchase of this site offers an excellent opportunity to recover the California red-legged frog in the central Sierra Nevada. Weber Creek has long been thought to provide a refugia for California red-legged frog in the Sierra Nevada. The location of this population in area presents a significant opportunity to recover the species not only within the Weber Creek watershed, but also within adjacent drainages, thus moving the species closer to recovery. The western Sierra Nevada below 4,500 feet elevation is listed as a recovery unit in the final rule listing the species as threatened May 23, 1996. This site is situated at 3,200 feet elevation on the North Fork Weber Creek, a tributary to the South Fork American River. This proposal to purchase the 56 acre parcel and transfer ownership to the adjacent Eldorado National Forest would provide protection and management certainty for this important population.

b. Location and/or geographic boundaries of project

This site is situated at 3,200 feet elevation on the North Fork Weber Creek, a tributary to the South Fork American River

c. Expected benefit(s)

Increases in distribution and abundance of the California red-legged frog may lead to eventual delisting.

d. Background and Biological/Technical Justification

Water diversions via Weber Dam (5 miles downstream) and Central Valley Project activities have significantly contributed to the reduction of California red-legged frog populations throughout its range. The construction of large reservoirs have facilitated the introduction of non-native fishes and other predators which has had a significant impact on the California red-legged frog within the western Sierra Nevada and the central valley. The California red-legged frog is a frog of marshes, ponds, and low gradient stream reaches that support back water areas with emergent vegetation, as well as larger vernal pool habitats occurring from valley level to approximately 5,000 feet elevation. Prior to the agricultural and urban development of the central valley the California red-legged frog was abundant and well distributed within the wetland habitats of this region. The subsequent draining, conversion of wetland habitats associated with the construction of reservoirs and water diversions within the Central Valley hydrologic basin has significantly reduced the California red-legged frog range.

Continued urbanization, development of infrastructure, and out growth of the Central Valley projects indirect effects continue to significant negative effects to the survival and recovery of

the California red-legged frog. The growth of rural El Dorado county poses a grim threat to recovering the California red-legged frog within this portion of it's range in the absence of aggressive recovery efforts. The purchase of this site will begin the process of recovery and the umbrella strategy to preserve the species and its habitat in the western Sierra Nevada.

e. Proposed Scope of Work

See project description and approach above.

f. Monitoring and Data Evaluation

Service staff will be involved in reviewing monitoring plans associated with the acquisition, evaluating the results, and providing recommendations to improve methodologies and proposals as well as remedial measures.

g. Implementability

Acquisition can be implemented upon receipt of funds.

IV. Costs and Schedule to Implement Proposed Project (no more than 2 pages plus tables and/or figures)

a. Budget Costs

\$350,00 for initial acquisition

\$500,000 for O & M

Total--\$850,000

b. Schedule Milestones

Initial purchase--immediate on receipt of funding

O&M--monthly

c. Third Party Impacts

Initial and frequent Service participation will expedite acquisition and facilitate consistency with Service policy, rules, regulations and projects under the authority of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

V. Applicant Qualifications (no more than 3 pages, including tables)

Professional staff will be used in accordance with their respective expertise.

VI. Compliance with standard terms and conditions (no more than 1 page plus forms)

Compliance with standard Federal contracting terms and conditions will be met.

O. Contract Requirements